

POINTS OF INTEREST

1 The **Heathland Heritage Centre** helps preserve local heritage material and stands on the site of the old Crossroads Pottery. There is an extensive collection of Verwood pottery in the museum.



2 Despite the name, Stephen's Castle is actually a **Barrow** not a Castle. It was excavated in 1828 when cremation remains were found under an inverted urn.



3 Verwood is well hidden by the trees but on a clear day, you can see the Isle of Wight, Bournemouth, the Purbecks and Penbury Knoll from the **viewpoint** at Stephen's Castle.



4 The **quarry** was dug by hand to extract sand and gravel which was transported from Verwood by train. Work at the quarry stopped in the 1960s.



5 Parts of the old quarry are now flooded providing an important **habitat** for a variety of pond and insect life.



6 Several species of **dragonfly and damselfly** can be found at Stephen's Castle and are easily spotted flying around the ponds.



VERWOOD WALKABOUTS

WALKABOUT 1 Stephen's Castle

A short walk from Potter's Wheel car park around Stephen's Castle Nature Reserve (approx. 1.6 miles).

This is one of a series of circular walks from Verwood through the surrounding countryside. They are mainly on Public Rights of Way, with some on paths with access permitted by the landowners.

These walks are intended to encourage exploration and appreciation of the variety and beauty of the countryside in this locality, on foot. Cyclists are not permitted to ride on public footpaths and by law must give way to walkers and horseriders on bridleways.

When walking, please remember the Countryside Code, particularly:

- respect the local community, farmland and others enjoying the countryside
- leave gates and property as you find them
- leave no trace of your visit and take your litter home
- keep dogs under effective control
- keep to the marked paths and cause no damage to crops, livestock or wildlife

Appropriate footwear is recommended, since wet or muddy conditions can be encountered at any time.

The Verwood Walkabouts have been developed by the Verwood and District Ramblers to mark their 50th Anniversary and have been produced in association with Dorset Council. They are available from Verwood Town Council Offices, Verwood Library and the Heathland Heritage Centre. They can also be downloaded from www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/walkabouts

Further information can be obtained from Verwood Town Council on 01202 820880.



VERWOOD WALKABOUTS

Stephen's Castle



WALKABOUT
1

STEPHEN'S CASTLE

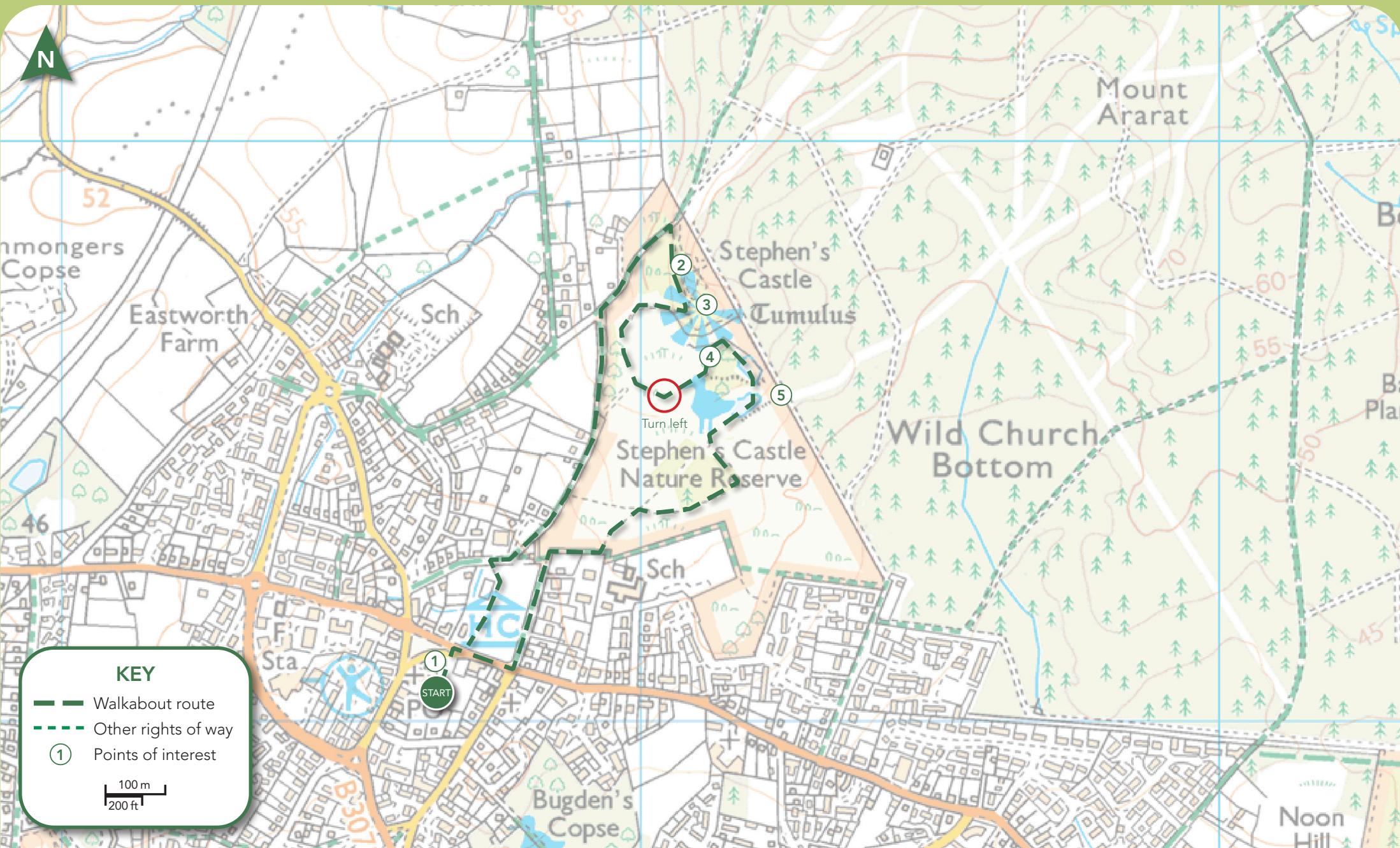
A short walk from Potter's Wheel car park around Stephen's Castle Nature Reserve.

STARTING POINT

Potter's Wheel car park, BH31 6ND

DISTANCE

approximately 1.6 miles



KEY

- Walkabout route
- Other rights of way
- Points of interest

100 m
200 ft